

What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 10, 2001

PRACTICE "STREET SMARTS" THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

While overall crime continues to be down in DC this year – the sixth consecutive annual decrease – one crime that has increased is robbery. And during the holiday season, street robberies, pickpocketing and other thefts usually seem to increase. To help protect DC shoppers, workers, visitors and neighborhoods residents this holiday season, the MPDC will be stepping up patrols – both uniformed and plainclothes – in commercial areas and other locations where large numbers of people tend to gather. Individuals can also take some simple precautions to reduce their risk of being victimized. These include always being aware of your surroundings (don't get distracted), not overburdening yourself with packages, not carrying large sums of cash, and

Another particular concern during the holidays is safety around Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). Learn some steps you can take to help protect yourself and your hard-earned cash this holiday season:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/atm.shtm

If your neighborhood group, business organization or civic association is interested in a safety presentation over the holidays, please contact Officer Steve Jackson in the MPDC's Community Outreach Section, 202-727-0783.

keeping your wallet or purse secure at all times. And if you are the victim of a robbery or theft, please call police right away. Only through citizen reporting can the MPDC accurately track crime patterns and trends, and develop leads in apprehending offenders. For more information on how you can practice "street smarts" – this holiday season and throughout the year – click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/robbassault.shtm

DECEMBER "CHAMPS" OF THE MPDC

Earlier this year, First District Officers Eric Melby and John Haines were on directed patrol in the 900 block of 3rd Street, SE, when they spotted a stolen Dodge Intrepid with three occupants who were wanted in connection with a triple shooting in the Seventh District. The officers activated their emergency equipment and attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver of the Dodge accelerated. After notifying dispatchers, Melby and Haines gave pursuit as the stolen vehicle headed onto the Southeast/Southwest Freeway. The officers briefly lost sight of the vehicle on Good Hope Road when it crested a hill, but soon discovered that the driver had lost control and collided with a telephone pole. With the engine of the car on fire, Melby and Haines began evacuating the occupants. Their efforts not only saved the suspects' lives, but also allowed the officers to recover four semiautomatic pistols. It was later discovered that one of the suspects was wanted on two Murder One warrants in Prince George's County. Read about the heroics of Officers Melby and Haines, Departmental Officers of the Month, as well as all of the December "CHAMPS Award" winners, at:

CHAMPS – the Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service – is a monthly incentive award program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community. The December CHAMPS Awards luncheon was held at the Savoy Suites of Georgetown.

mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2001/12.shtm

GET A "SOBER RIDE" FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The beginning of December means the holiday party season is kicking into gear. While there are indications that, following the tragic events of September 11th, this year's party season will be more subdued than in the past, drinking and driving is always a concern. To help combat the problem, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), of which the MPDC is a member, is once again sponsoring its SoberRide program. WRAP's 2001 Holiday SoberRide will be offered from Tuesday, December 11, 2001 through Wednesday, January 2, 2002. The hours of operation will be from 8 pm until 4 am on these dates, with the program ending at 4 am, January 2, 2002. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare – callers are responsible for anything over \$50), individuals age 21 or older can call 1-800-200-TAXI (8294). For more details on the 2001 Holiday SoberRide – including the areas covered and participating taxicab companies – click on:

As always, the MPDC reminds residents that DC has tough drunken driving laws and penalties, including a .08 BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) level for DWI (Driving While Intoxicated). Get the facts on drinking and driving in DC at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

www.wrap.org/programs_adult1.html

CIVILIAN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC announces three professional career opportunities for civilian employees. One is for a professional librarian with the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science (Training Academy). The other two positions are with the MPDC's Office of Organizational Development: one for a grants analyst, the other for a program manager. The closing dates for all three positions are all within the next two weeks. Get complete information about these positions – including salaries and qualifications – by going to:

The US Department of Labor has scheduled a Jobs and Skills Fair for Thursday, January 10, at the Washington Convention Center. This "Workforce Recovery Conference" is geared to help put the DC region back to work in the aftermath of September 11th. A variety of employers – including the MPDC – will be participating.

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm

TAXICAB SAFETY DEVICES DESIGNED TO PROTECT DRIVERS, CUT DOWN ON CRIME

Effective this month, all taxicabs operating and licensed in DC are required to be equipped with one of three safety devices required by regulation of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission (DCTC). Taxicab owners must select one of three devices for installation: a safety partition between the front and rear seats; a video camera mounted on the front dash or rear view mirror and capable of videotaping activity in the rear seat of the vehicle; or a safety warning light to summon assistance in the event the driver believes that he or she is being threatened with harm. The District will enforce the required installation at the time the taxicab is due for its semi-annual inspection at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inspection Station. In imposing the requirement, the DCTC expects drivers to expand the availability of taxicab service in all quadrants of the District, including some areas where drivers say they fear for their safety. For additional information, call Lee E. Williams or Kimberly Lewis, at 645-6005.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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MPDC.DC.GOV